

TRAIL TALES

Newsletter of Rails-to-Trails of Wayne County



Rails-to-Trails of Wayne County
P.O. Box 1566
Wooster, OH 44691

President:

Don Noble II, Shreve

Email: donnoble2@earthlink.net

Vice President:

Ted Short, Wooster

Email: short.2@osu.edu

Secretary:

Evelyn Kitchen, Wooster

Treasurer:

Pam Schoenberger, Wooster

Newsletter:

Amy Gilbert, Wooster

Trustees:

Keith Workman, Orrville

Roger Maibach, Creston

Kevin Gowins, Apple Creek

Chris Oehl, Fredericksburg

Rick Neil, Dalton

E-mail Updates Requested

If you have not been getting periodic announcements concerning meetings and events, please email Ted Short at short.2@osu.edu to get on our list.

President's Comments

Fall is a great time of year to get out into the cool air and enjoy the colorful foliage, especially on our Sippo Valley Trail. Sippo Trail continues to be a popular destination that we proudly use as a model for communities considering a new trail. We thank the Village of Dalton and all of the volunteers who are keeping it both beautiful and safe.

This summer, we finally completed a half mile long trail at Fredericksburg, connecting the center of the village to the Holmes County Trail. The usage has been phenomenal and has greatly increased local public awareness of the Rails to Trails movement. Many individuals from the Fredericksburg community contributed volunteer time to achieve their trail. We have truly enjoyed this unique partnership!

Our biggest project to date, building the County Line Trail between Creston and Rittman, remains on track (or, should I say trail) and is scheduled for construction in 2008. We are very close to completing our local fund-raiser and the engineering design is underway with the Wooster based firm of Shaffer Pomeroy Ltd. We have been very gratified by the broad and strong local participation in this fund-raising effort. Thank you one and all!!!

In this newsletter, we are including abstracts of summer biking adventures of two of our board members. Pictures and more extensive narratives are available from our newsletter editor, Amy Gilbert, via email. I'm sure there are more great stories of adventures that others of you may have taken. Please email your experiences to Amy so we can have more adventure stories in future newsletters (and on our eventual web-site).

We have welcomed two new board members since our annual meeting in April. Pam Schoenberger is our new treasurer replacing Jerry Felland and Roger Maibach is our newest trustee replacing Elsie Zuercher. We thank all four individuals for their past and present dedicated service.

We also thank each of you for your renewed memberships and special contribution to the County Line Trail fund. We have responses from approximately 165 to date.

Have a great fall with safe rides. Please, encourage your family and friends use of helmets...See you on the trail!

Don Noble II

President, RTWC

New Officers Elected at the Annual Meeting

Two new officers were elected to the Board at the annual meeting at Creston on April 19. Pam Schoneberger from Wooster replaced Jerry Felland as treasurer. Pam is a regular road biker with her friend Becky and often does trails with her husband Phil. Pam is recently retired from the OARDC where she was a research technician in the Animal Sciences Department. Roger Maibach replaced Elsie Zuercher as a Board Trustee representing the horse-rider interests. Roger is in the construction equipment sales and rental business and is married to Cindy. Roger is a member of the Creston community where the County Line Trail is being planned.

County Line Trail Progress

An ODOT grant of \$1,713,000, local funds of \$235,000, and \$400,000 of state capital funds will be required to build the County Line Trail from Creston to Rittman. We are happy to report that we have nearly completed the local membership fund drive and Jim Carmichael is confident we will receive construction funding in the State of Ohio capital bill later this year. We have hired the Wooster design firm of Shaffer Pomeroy Ltd (SPL) where Keith Amstutz is project leader and John Long is design engineer. Since mid summer, SPL has been surveying the former rail right-of-way so that Keith and John can plan the precise location of the paved trail and bridges. Negotiations with private landowners for necessary right-of-way purchases and easements are expected to occur in early 2007. Final design of trail, berms, intersections, and bridges is planned for mid-to-late 2007; and, bidding, contract awards, and construction are planned for 2008. We greatly appreciate your enthusiastic involvement in this effort!!

Wayne County Fair Booth an Annual Success!

The RTWC fair booth at the 2006 Wayne County Fair in September was, again, a huge success. This is always a great chance to visit and share our vision with many local residents who stop at our booth. Without a doubt, the new map of the Holmes County Trail was the best moving product and we ran out well before the end of the fair. We have obtained additional supplies and will make them available through the local bike shops. Many thanks to the RTWC volunteers who helped us keep the booth open from 10 AM to 10 PM each day.

Fall Fun on Sippo Trail

On Saturday, Oct. 21, Massillon Area Greenways Inc. (MAGI) and RTWC will jointly hold a POKER RUN fund-raiser. You can support RTWC by simply riding the route! Last fall, there were about 350 participants and our share of the event receipts was \$703.63. Each participant pays \$5.00 per hand of cards at the Lake Avenue trailhead (Ernie's Bike Shop in Massillon) and rides to Dalton and back. Winners of the top ten hands receive prizes donated by area businesses. You do not need any poker expertise to play or win. The ride starts anytime between 9:00 AM and 1:00 PM. Contact Keith Workman <kcw2786@copper.net> for more details and to check if volunteers are still needed.

Welcome New Members

To date, we have 166 members who have responded to the 2006 membership drive with special emphasis on the County Line Trail fund. We welcome the following new members:

William Buckingham, Wooster, Ohio
Dr. Kat Carabell, Akron, Ohio
Jeffrey Dilyard, Jeromesville, Ohio
Raymond Leisy, Wooster, Ohio
Coni Ann Limpert, Rittman, Ohio
Arlene & Kaye Maibach, Sterling, Ohio
Mike & Robin Miller, Creston, Ohio
Patricia Miller, Wooster, Ohio

Tim and Jayne Neal, Shreve, Ohio
Erwin & Susan Riedner, Wooster, Ohio
Jerry Ritzman, Rittman, Ohio
Jennifer Shankleton, Orrville, Ohio
Dave & Betty Shewmon, Wooster, Ohio
Don W. Torgler, Dalton, Ohio
Russ & Debra Welty, Wooster, Ohio
Teresa Wilhelm, Alliance, Ohio

Public Power-Point Presentations

Don, Ted, and Chris gave power point presentations to various service groups in Wayne County almost every month last year. This has been an excellent way to tell our story locally and build cooperation and support within communities. We look forward to presenting to your organization(s), including repeat visits for the latest updates. Please contact Ted Short <short.2@osu.edu> for more information and scheduling.

Fredericksburg Trail Completed!!

RTWC worked steadily for the last two years with the Fredericksburg community to bring the Holmes County trail from Sterling Road into the village with a 10' wide asphalt path for walking, biking, and skating. There is also a bridle path alongside, while buggies must turn out onto Sterling Road and come into town via Harrison Road and Clay Street. RTWC started the process by negotiating the right-of-way with land-owners in 2004 and contracting with AEP in May 2005, to have two large power poles behind Robin Industries moved. Major excavation was donated and completed during the summer 2005 by one of the adjacent landowners, Junior Coblenz. In 2006, drainage culverts were installed across the trail behind Robin Industries by Ivan Weaver Construction and the asphalt was financed by the Salt Creek Township trustees and completed by Melway Paving. Mark Weaver, Keith Workman, and Ted Short planned and installed signage and barrier posts while contracting fencing. Ivan Weaver Construction donated concrete and labor to connect the trail to the parking area at the elementary school. Many thanks to Mark Weaver for volunteering his time as construction manager and to Mayor Deb Dobson for coordinating the trail development and financing between the community and RTWC. Contact Ted Short short.2@osu.edu for more information.

Summer Cycling Adventures of Our Members

"Wild and Wonderful West Virginia" -- the North Bend Rail Trail is all of that. If you want to experience the best parts, go to the North Bend State Park and ride east to Ellenboro or ride west to Cairo. I encourage you to experience the wild beauty of West Virginia. If you feel adventurous (and well prepared), by all means ride it all! --- Keith Workman

The terrifically informative Allegheny Trail Alliance website <atatrail.org> let me plan and cycle part of the 150 mile Great Allegheny Passage that connects Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C. I discovered a delightful B & B in Connellsville, PA, and cycled from there to Confluence and back, with fun stops at Ohiopyle State Park on both legs. --- Amy Gilbert

For photos, full accounts, and reflections on either the North Bend or Allegheny Trail adventure, please email Amy Gilbert at amygiohio@earthlink.net

Kudos to Holmes County Rails to Trails Coalition

RTWC extends kudos to the Holmes County Rails to Trails Coalition and Holmes County Park District for procuring the necessary funding to continue their trail from Millersburg to Killbuck. Linn Engineering, who designed the 10.1 mile trail from Sterling Road in Fredericksburg to Millersburg, will start design and environmental work this fall on the proposed 4.75 mile trail to Killbuck. Construction is planned to begin sometime in the summer of 2007.

Other news is that the Holmes County Park District purchased the entire Holmes County Trail from the Holmes County Commissioners this year. The Park District is actively supporting the Holmes County Trail while the Holmes County Rails to Trails Coalition still operates as a support organization. Joan Simcak, will continue as Director of the Holmes County Rails to Trails Coalition, working closely with the Park District to oversee and lead trail development. More details are available from the HCRTC website: www.holmestrail.org.

Rails to Trails of Wayne County
P.O. Box 1566
Wooster, Ohio 44691

Rails-to-Trails of Wayne County is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion, development, and conversion of unused railroad and green way corridors into multi-purpose, non-motorized public paths.

Ohio Trails and Greenways Edition IV book, produced by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Ohio Field Office is available for \$15.00 at the local bike shops or by contacting Ted Short at short.2@osu.edu. It makes an excellent gift for the holidays.

Sippo Valley Poker Run on Saturday, October 21

Start Anytime Between 9AM & 1PM

Lake Ave. Trailhead (Corner of SR 21 & Lake Ave., Massillon)

Proceeds to Benifit RTWC

*“Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”
— Ralph Waldo Emerson*